

MEMORANDUM**NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL**

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March 16, 1972

MEMORANDUM FOR: MR. KISSINGER**FROM:** RICHARD T. KENNEDY

JOHN NEGROPONTE

SUBJECT: Revised Cambodian Strategy

Existing strategy in Cambodia seeks to defend the area south of routes six and seven and to establish effective GKR control in the countryside.

The Cambodian Army General Staff has drafted a revised plan for operations during the rest of the dry season (map at Tab A). The proposal divides the country into three zones: First call on military resources would go to heavily populated Zone 1 which includes Phnom Penh, the principal LOCs, and most of the heavy rice-producing areas where the goal would be to eliminate all enemy forces. Zone 2 would comprise the rest of the area south of highways six and seven (the "Lon Nol Area") where the objectives would be defense of major population centers and maintenance of the present level of security for lines of communication (This area also is a major rice-producer.). Zone 3 would be the large, sparsely settled area north of Zone 2, where the GKR would only try to maintain pressure on the enemy from the air.

Though it is doubtful that any significant operational changes can be accomplished during the remainder of this dry season, if Lon Nol accepts the plan, it may provide a headstart for a more effective dry season campaign in 1973.

The proposal appears to establish appropriate priorities for the limited GKR resources available. It suggests that at least some leaders are becoming increasingly realistic and, if the plan is implemented, it may portend a more effective use of Cambodian forces.

JCS review completed.

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CAMBODIA: Proposed Dry Season Priority Areas

